

Phase I Public Input Summary_ Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area

Public Comment Period January 3 to January 22, 2017

On January 3, 2017 the DNR posted the regional and property analysis, draft vision and goals and the public participation plan to the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area master plan web site.

On January 3rd a news release was posted online and it was sent to media in Chippewa, Barron, Rusk, Taylor, Clark, Eau Claire and Dunn counties. In addition over 110 emails were sent to people on the CMSRA master plan GovDelivery mailing list. We sought comment from public participants, local governing bodies, project partners and elected officials.

A public meeting was held on January 17, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input on issues of public interest regarding the future management and development of the property.

Public Meeting Summary:

Meeting Location: David R. Obey Interpretive Center

Date and Time: January 17, 2017 from 4 PM to 7 PM

Staff in Attendance: Dave Hladilek, Brenda Rederer, Rod Gont, Mike Rivers, Cameron Bump, Bill Hogseth, Dennis Hutchison, Joseph Gerbyshak, Dean Edlin, Mark Binder and Ann Freiwald

Attendees: 17 people

Note: Richard Smith (local Ice Age Chapter rep) brought table info representing the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Meeting Notes

Notes from staff:

Notes from Welcome Desk

- Question, does the trail connect yet?
- No ATV's, UTV's , wants quiet sports
- Keep boat landings primitive, no landings if possible
- Nice piece of property
- Keep property non-motorized –no logging

Notes from Master Plan Desk

- Better signage at private lands and trails
- Consider adding acres to the project boundary in anticipation of future land gift offerings from local conservation groups

- Consider a day use area at the old girl scout camp or somewhere on the property, needed for local family gatherings, currently use a county property
- Leave Hodge Lake as a walk-in site to protect the fishery
- Master plan maps misrepresent the property boundaries on the south and west side of Two Island Lake, by our maps it appears the public has access to some lake shore and that we own a private home located on the west side of the lake

Notes from the Resource Table

- No ATV's and UTVs, riders leave too much trash behind
- Timber harvest and fire are necessary in the woods around Sybaquay
- Signage needs to be improved to help distinguish between private and public parcels
- Allow flexibility to manage for future threats (i.e. insect outbreak, fire, etc.), such as salvage cutting. And supports prescribed fire

Notes from the Recreation Table

- People are happy with the current fisheries management on the property
- People liked the wilderness setting and they did not want to see easier/improved access to these waterbodies

In general, it seemed the meeting attendees like the current uses and management of the property. There were no comments calling for new activities that are currently not allowed on the property. They appreciate the wilderness feel of the property and are not in favor of excessive development.

Meeting wrapped up at 7 PM.

Comment Forms Summary

Two comment forms were filled out and turned in during the public comment period. One was from a member of the public. He expressed support for old growth forest and management activities that would encourage them. He also said “no motorized vehicles”. The second comment form was from the County Forest Administrator. His comments are summarized below.

- Strategically expand the project boundary to take in lands that are owned by either conservation groups or families that are sympathetic to conservation causes in the area. He provides a specific suggestion for boundary expansion.
- He would like us to maintain the ability to use adaptive management techniques to enable DNR staff to respond to changing conditions and advances in our understanding of natural processes.
- He provided four comments on forest management techniques.
- Preferred non-motorized access to the lakes and preservation and/or improvements to the fisheries on the property.
- Convert agricultural fields to prairie or savannah landscapes.

Letters and Emails Summarized

We received two letters and one email during the public comment period.

The writers encouraged us to preserve the fisheries and the wildlife by protecting against overharvesting. Generally they liked the current management, access and uses allowed. One specifically requested that we do not add any motorized uses. Suggestions for the girl scout camp include removal of all of the buildings and the addition of hiking trails. The writer also suggested we reconsider the fee areas at the North and South Shattuck Lake landings.

Summary

It appears the public is generally happy with the resource and the recreation management at the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area. They enjoy the “wilderness” feel of the property and are hopeful that no motorized activities are added to the property.